Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, after the title, insert the following new paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to PCT Appln. No. PCT/US03/011489 filed October 16, 2003, and to German application 102 49 636.6 filed October 24, 2002.

At page 1, line 3, please add the following heading and subheading as shown below:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

At page 1, line 9, please add the following subheading as shown below:

2. Description of the Related Art

At page 2, line 2, please add the following heading as shown below:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

At page 2, line 7, please add the following heading as shown below:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 5, at line 10, as shown below:

Suitable polyvinyl alcohol protective colloids for the redispersible polymer powders of a) are partly hydrolyzed or completely hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohols. Partly hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohols having a degree of hydrolysis of from 80 to 95 mol% and a Höppler viscosity, in 4% strength aqueous solution, of from 1 to 30 mPa.s (method according to Höppler at 20°C, DIN 53015) are preferred. Partly hydrolyzed, hydrophobically modified polyvinyl alcohols having a degree of hydrolysis of from 80 to 95 mol% and a Höppler viscosity, in 4% strength aqueous solution, of from 1 to [[10]] 30 mPa.s are also preferred. Examples of these are partly hydrolyzed copolymers of vinyl acetate with hydrophobic comonomers, such as isopropenyl acetate, vinyl pivalate, vinyl ethylhexanoate, vinyl esters of saturated alpha-branched monocarboxylic acids having 5 or 9 to 11 carbon atoms, dialkyl maleates and dialkyl fumarates, such as diisopropyl maleate and diisopropyl fumarate, vinyl chloride, vinyl alkyl ethers, such as vinyl butyl ether, and olefins, such as ethene and decene. The proportion of the hydrophobic units is preferably from 0.1 to 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the polyhydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol. Mixtures of said polyvinyl alcohols may also be used.

Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 7, at line 5, as shown below:

The molecular weights of said protective colloids for the redispersible polymer powders b) are ≤ [[25 000]] 250,000 g/mol, preferably ≤ [[150 000]] 150,000 g/mol, particularly preferably from 5000 to [[50 000]] 50,000 g/mol, determined in each case as the weight average Mw, for example using gel permeation chromatography. The carboxyl-functional protective colloids are generally contained in the redispersible powder b) in an amount of, altogether, from 1 to 40% by weight, based on the total weight of the base polymer. Said carboxyl-functional protective colloids are obtainable by means of processes known to the person skilled in the art or are commercially available.

Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 9 at line 16 as shown below:

Example 1:

A mixture of 95 parts by weight of standard sand T4, 5 parts by weight of a polymer powder comprising a vinyl acetate/ethylene copolymer (Tg = 9°C) and a polyacrylic acid (Mw about [[20 000]] 20,000, 20% by weight, based on copolymer) and 1.1 parts by weight of calcium carbonate was prepared.